

In our next number, we shall commence publishing a regular detail of the proceedings of the Legislature of this state.

His Excellency SAMUEL STEVENS, Jun. was on Monday last, re-elected Governor of this state.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

On Tuesday the legislature proceeded to elect, by joint ballot, five gentlemen to serve as a Council to the Governor for the ensuing year, when, on counting the ballots, it appeared that

- Philemon Chew, Thomas Emory, Robert H. Archer, Joseph Gabby, and Joshua Prideaux, Esquire, were duly elected.

The following gentlemen were also put in nomination, Thomas P. Bennett, Nicholas Brewer, William Whitely, and John R. W. Pitt.

GEN. LA FAYETTE.

The following will enable readers at a distance to form an idea of the manner in which Gen. La Fayette will be received and entertained on his arrival in this city:

Arrangements for the reception of General La Fayette in Annapolis.

ON Friday morning the 17th instant, The Hon. Jeremiah T. Chase, The Hon. Theodorick Bland, Col. Maynadier, and John Randall, Esquire, will proceed to the Governor's Bridge, accompanied by two Marshals, and a troop of horse, for the purpose of meeting General La Fayette, and conducting him to the City.

On the General's arrival at Miller's Hill, he will be met by a detachment of infantry and cavalry, and will there exchange his travelling carriage for a barouche which is to be in waiting for his reception. His suite will at the same time be conducted to a carriage.

The procession will then be formed, with the General at each extremity, the infantry between; the General's barouche, followed by the carriage containing his suite, and by the committee who attend him from the Governor's Bridge, will occupy the centre of the whole line.

As soon as General La Fayette arrives at the entrance of the town, the flag will be hoisted on the state-house, which will be the signal for firing a national salute.

The procession will move down West and Church-streets, proceed up Francis-street, and will halt on arriving at the steps in front of the public circle; the troops in advance of the General opening to the right and left, fronting inwards, and presenting arms while his barouche approaches the steps. General La Fayette will there alight from his barouche, and escorted by two Marshals, and followed by his suite, and the committee accompanying, will proceed to the front door of the state-house, through a line of infantry, flanked by cavalry, drawn up within the circle. At the door of the state-house he will be received by the Chief Marshal, and conducted to the Senate Chamber, where he will be welcomed by the Mayor on the part of the citizens.

When the ceremonies in the Senate Chamber are completed, he will be conducted by the Chief Marshal to the door of the state-house, and will thence proceed to his barouche, attended in the same manner as on his approach to the state-house. On the arrival of Gen. La Fayette at the door of the state-house, after retiring from the Senate Chamber, a second national salute will be fired. When he resumes his seat in his barouche, the procession will again be formed, and will move to the garrison at Fort Severn, in the same order in which it approached the public circle.

From the Garrison, he will be conducted to the government-house. The members of the Committee will there retire, and the military, after forming in line, and presenting arms in front of the house, will march to their respective places of rendezvous, and be dismissed. The procession will be organized and directed during the day, by a Chief Marshal aided by eight Assistant Marshals. The Chief Marshal will be distinguished by a white sash, and La Fayette badge; the Assistant Marshals by blue sashes, La Fayette badges and white wands. On Friday night the General and suite will be conducted to and from the Ball, by the Marshals, accompanied by the Governor and his Aids.

On Saturday morning there will be a review in the College Green. General La Fayette will be accompanied to the parade ground by the Governor and his aids, together with the Marshals, and an escort of Cavalry. At the conclusion of the review the troops will perform, in presence of General La Fayette, such evolutions as may be directed by the Commanding Officer. When these have terminated, General La Fayette

will return to the government-house, attended in the same manner as on his approach to the parade ground. He will, on Saturday afternoon, be conducted to and from dinner, by the same gentlemen who attend him to the Ball on the preceding evening. On Saturday night there will be an illumination. It is recommended by the Committee, that the illumination commence at six o'clock, and that the lights be extinguished at nine.

JAMES BOYLE, Mayor of the City of Annapolis, and Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

RECEPTION OF GEN. LA FAYETTE.

In accordance with the views of the Committee of Arrangements, and those which were assembled for the occasion, are desired may assemble for the occasion, are desired to form in line at Miller's Hill on Friday the 17th at 10 o'clock, there to await the approach of the "National Guard." The entire line (having its right towards the city) will receive the General with the appropriate salute, and then the Procession will be organized agreeably to the following order:

- Two Marshals in front. Troop of Cavalry. Company of the Rifle Corps. Marshal. Cornet. Marshal. GENERAL LA FAYETTE. The General's Family. Two Marshals. Revolutionary Officers. Military and Naval Officers. Officers of the Militia. Cavalry. Rifle Corps. Cavalry.

In this order, the Procession will move in quick time to the state house, in the manner and by the route already announced by the Committee of Arrangements. The remaining ceremonies of the day will be in strict accord with the plan indicated by the Committee, except that a national salute will be fired by the Garrison at Fort Severn, as the General enters the gate-way. At one o'clock on Saturday, the Review will take place; the moment the line receives the General, a salute is to be fired by the Annapolis Artillery. It is desirable that the troops should assemble on the College Green at half past 12, so that the line may be correctly formed. The right will be in the direction of the creek, and perpendicular to it, and will be composed of cavalry, the United States Artillery, as Infantry, the next in line, and then the "Annapolis Battalion" in its habitual order of formation. The volunteer corps from the country which may be present, and a Regiment, will be incorporated with this Battalion.

R. JONES, Chief Marshal.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Monday, Dec. 13.

Mr. M. Mahon delivers the following REPORT:

THE Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice, having been requested by an order of the House of Delegates of the 11th instant, to ascertain and report to the House as speedily as possible, to what extent certain late Registers in Chancery, named in a Resolution of the late General Assembly, have complied with said Resolution, beg leave to submit the following Report:

In discharge of the duties imposed upon them by the order, your committee deemed it proper to travel into the previous legislative acts having relation to this subject; and as they have not found the report of the committee at the last session upon which the resolution above referred to, was based, sufficiently explicit in its statements, and as they regard it as a matter of the utmost moment, that not only the members of this House, but also the citizens of this state, should be apprised of the extent to which official negligence has heretofore prevailed amongst our judicial and executive officers of high grades, they determined to submit to the legislature a brief yet perspicuous view of the full extent of the grievances to which the order and resolution relate. By some it may be deemed an improper interference with a subject put to rest by the report of the late committee, and by others as raking up the ashes of the dead, and as dwelling too fondly upon official misconduct, already sufficiently disclosed.

Your committee cannot however, regard it in this light. In the course of their investigations they have ascertained the subject matter of complaint to be an abiding grievance, in no degree diminished by the resolution of the last session, and a grievance which will in a greater or less degree affect every citizen of the state, and which might have been remedied by the legislature, had they been more desirous to renovate the subject and to breathe the memories of those officers upon whom it is enjoined by the resolution of the last session to use compulsory measures after a certain period, they would have been wanting in duty to themselves, they would have betrayed the

trust confided to them by this House. They have but too much reason to fear that fancied delicacy has already too often precluded, and will always preclude, a manly and candid exposure of official misbehaviour; and your committee deem it full time to resist this propensity to veil or extenuate. They only regret that they cannot perpetrate a knowledge of the facts which they are about to disclose, that they may awaken after citizens to a more vigilant observance of official conduct, and that they may serve as a beacon to warn after officers against the commission of like improprieties.

The public attention does not seem to have been properly and efficiently directed to the state of the records in the several judicial offices of this state until the year 1817; at which period, if we may judge from the extent of similar deficiencies in the Court of Chancery, the unrecorded papers in most of the offices were the accumulation of twenty or thirty years of uninterrupted neglect. The law passed during that year for the redress of the grievance, of itself abundantly evinces the long continuance of the grievance, and the size to which it had swollen. Although it was undoubtedly the duty of the clerks and registers to have made out full and complete records of all cases in their respective courts, and although they had charged their fees for recording in all cases, yet the Legislature seems very wisely to have concluded that by requiring utter performance, they might perhaps fail in effecting any thing; and they therefore deemed it proper to discriminate between actions in any manner affecting the title to real property, and mere personal actions, and only to exact in express terms completion of the records in the first mentioned cases. The single fact of discrimination serves to show how great was the mass of unrecorded papers.

The act of 1817, chap. 119, is an act both of prospective and of retrospective operation. It was designed to compel the completion of the records in all of a certain class of judicial proceedings had before its passage, and at the same time to keep them up for the future in a perfect state, in part by diminishing the labour in dispensing with recording in mere personal actions, and in part by the periodical supervision of the judges in whose courts the proceedings are had. But it must be observed that the act of 1817 in its retrospective operation, although it relates only to real and mixed actions, does yet in no degree exonerate the officer from the performance of his duty in personal actions. It only selects the neglect to record in the first actions as the most prominent part of the grievance, and although it imposes no legal, it yet in no degree impairs the previous moral or even legal obligation to record the same. Before the passage of the law of 1817 it was the duty of the registers and clerks to have completed their records in all actions whatsoever, and they were entitled to their fees in all cases for so doing, nor can any thing express be seen in that law to exonerate them from the duty of recording in mere personal actions, but more especially in all such actions when the fees for recording had been charged and received. These remarks are deemed necessary to elucidate the report made by the present Register in Chancery to the late General Assembly.

The law of 1817 having selected the actions affecting the title to real property as those in which the grievance was most prominent and most likely to result in serious injury to the citizens of the state, endeavoured to provide for the immediate completion of the records in these cases, by enjoining it upon the chancellor and the judges of the county courts in their respective courts to inspect the records thereof, and in all instances where such deficiency was discovered, to require completion of them at the hands of the officer or his security or personal representatives, in the event of his decease, and to present the periods within which they should be completed. In the event of a failure to comply with their order to complete, the attorney for the state prosecuting in the court in which the records were thus deficient, was required to put in bail the bond of the officer to whom such default might be imputed.

This provision appears to have produced the desired effect in the several County Courts of this state; but as it regards the Registers in Chancery, the cynical declaration, that "laws are now spiders' webs

in which the weak are caught, while the strong break through and escape," has been amply verified. Your committee have reason to believe, that while the strong arm of the law was menacingly stretched over the head of every County Clerk within your state, the yet more culpable Registers in Chancery, who had enjoyed a listless office before the year 1817, the enormous annual salary of six or seven thousand dollars, were permitted to repose undisturbed in their negligence, and unreminded or at least heedless of their duty. Why this crying grievance should have remained unredressed and even unnoticed for five years after the passage of the law of 1817, and why it became necessary to call in a second time the aid of the legislature, your committee cannot determine. Nor will they venture to say to whom such neglect is imputable: One fact, however, seems uncontested, that the law of 1817 was not carried into effect in relation to these officers, although their deficiencies were of a character infinitely more important.

At length, in 1822, the attention of the legislature was a second time directed to the defaults of the Registers, and a resolution was passed at December session 1822—23, which, after reciting that many papers remained unrecorded during the time that Samuel H. Howard, Nicholas Brewer, James P. Heath, and Thomas H. Bowie, acted as Registers, which ought to have been recorded, and for recording which they were paid, proceeds to require the present Register in Chancery to examine the unrecorded papers in his office to ascertain, as near as possible the cost of recording the same, estimating it according to the present fees for recording allowed by law, and to report the result of his inquiries to the next legislature. In obedience to this resolution, a report was prepared and submitted by R. Waters, Esq. the present Register, which was referred to the consideration of the late Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice. In this report the Register has drawn a distinction between those papers required to be recorded under the existing law of 1817, and the papers in mere personal actions, and has confined himself to the obligations imposed by that act upon his predecessors. This report was required and designed not for the purpose of unfolding to the view of the legislature, a full exposition of the moral or even legal delinquencies of these officers, but rather for the purpose of enabling the house to ascertain the probable cost of the completion of the records, in conformity to the act of 1817, the cases in which such completion might be expected, at the hands of the delinquent officers, their securities or personal representatives, and the cases in which, from insolvency or other causes, such expectation could not be cherished, and in which therefore it becomes necessary, for the state to complete them at her own expense. It was desired principally if not solely to inform the state, as to the probable loss which she herself might sustain; and therefore it was unnecessary for the Register to have done more, than to have specified the costs of recording, in the unrecorded actions to which the law of 1817 relates. His report has therefore only given us this cost, and it is this cost which was reported to the house at its last session by the late committee of grievances in their report, prefixed to the resolution of the last session. These reports answered their respective purposes, but they do not suffice to show the extent of the delinquencies of these officers.

But some important facts are disclosed by the report of the Register, which in conjunction with others elicited by the recent examinations of the committee, will shew us their full compass. It would seem that Samuel H. Howard, remained Register until 1807, and was succeeded by Nicholas Brewer, Esq. who held it until 1812, and then in his turn gave way to James P. Heath, who held the office until 1815. Mr. Bowie came as his successor and held it until 1821. The cost of recording the unrecorded papers, absolutely necessary to be recorded under the restricted obligations of the law of 1817, and which ought to have been recorded by these four gentlemen, is in the aggregate estimated by the Register, to amount to the enormous sum of ten thousand dollars, and upwards, of which Mr. Howard's proportion is 4500, Mr. Brewer's 3000, Mr. Heath's 1500 and Mr. Bowie's 1500.

In addition to this we are informed by the Register, that the unrecorded papers which it was undeniably the duty of these officers to have recorded, but to which the law of 1817 does not relate, although it does not extenuate the neglect or purge the officer, or entitle him to money received for services which he never did perform, are at least equal to one third of the other unrecorded papers, and the recent investigations of the committee say, perhaps one half. Hence it is certain that these four officers, have received after the proportions above mentioned, at least 13 or 14000 dollars, for which no services whatever have ever been rendered by them.

If indeed the matter rested in a mere reception of money as an officer, without a consideration given therefor, highly as this committee might censure such acts, they would view them in a very different light. But their conduct has not terminated with themselves, and the parties from whom these fees have been received. They have neglected the performance of duties which are not extinct, which must be performed, and for the performance of which, the state must stand sponsor, and be the ultimate performer herself. Of the gentlemen above named, it seems that Messrs. Brewer and Bowie have given bonds, whilst Messrs. Howard and Heath have not. The state it seems, must necessarily incur an expense of at least 5 or 6000 dollars, from their defaults and from the long neglect to sue in one of the bonded cases, it is extremely questionable whether she must not incur a cost of at least 9000. In the present condition of our treasury, such a demand cannot be regarded as peculiarly oppressive, and cannot but awaken the public indignation against individuals, who although exalted to one of the most lucrative offices of our state, could yet so far forget the hand that exalted, as to render its friendship self-oppressive and self-ruinous.

Nor can the committee discover any thing to mitigate their neglect, in the conduct of such of these officers as are yet alive, subsequent to the discovery of their delinquencies. The law of 1817 should of itself, have been sufficient to stimulate them to the performance of duties, of the importance and urgency of which they must have been fully sensible; but notwithstanding the long indulgence to the year 1822, we do not find them making the least efforts to amend their past misconduct; but rather confirmed in their neglect by the mercy shown to them. In 1822 they were again reminded of their obligations by the resolution requiring the report of the registers, and in 1823 the full extent of their deficiencies was pointed out to them, the hand of mercy again extended to them, and again has that mercy been continued. The resolution of the last session assigned them the first of January 1825, as the period at which they should complete their records, and directed the Governor and Council to enjoin it upon the Attorney General to institute the necessary actions against all of those officers who shall not comply with the resolution. The termination of the period of indulgence is now at hand, and the committee regret that they must state, as the result of their inquiries, that no steps whatever have been taken by the defaulters in compliance with the resolution, nor even a paper touched.

As the resolution of the last session has prescribed the course to be pursued, after the termination of the indulgence lately given, your committee deem it unnecessary to do more than to urge it upon the Governor and Council, so soon as it has lapsed, to carry the resolution into instant execution. The state has indeed been long suffering and slow to wrath, and it is now full time that she should from a regard to her own safety, adopt some compulsory measures when all persuasives have failed.

All which is respectfully submitted.

STEAM BOATS.

The New Orleans Commercial Intelligence of the 1st of November, contains a list of Steam Boats which had arrived at that port in the years 1823—24, with the number of trips made by each, by which it appears that in 1823 there were 80 boats, which performed 335 voyages down the river to that market, and in 1824, to the 1st of November 308 trips—making 693 arrivals of steam-boats from above in the last 22 months. By adding the returns the voyages would amount to 1386.

C. HAYDEN, DENTIST.

Will be in Annapolis about the 8th of January, and will for a short time attend to the business of his profession.

Committee of Claims.

- Messrs. Kemp, Esq., John Edelen, Norris, Williams, Woolton, Lee

The Committee of Claims will sit every day during the present session from 9 o'clock A. M. until 3 o'clock P. M. to receive and allow all just claims that may be exhibited against the state.

Order, J. Cockey, Jr. Clk. Dec. 16.

Chancery Sale.

By virtue of a decree of the Court of Chancery, the subscriber will expose to public sale, at Hunter's Tavern in the city of Annapolis, on Friday the 17th day of January next, if fair, if not the next fair day thereafter, A TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND called "Part of Lugg Ox," it being the plantation or farm whereof Thomas Warfield died seized, containing about 202 acres of land, lying on the head of South River, and adjoining the lands of Capt. Gantt, and now in the possession of the Miss Warfields. It is deemed unnecessary to give a further description of the above property, as it is presumed those inclined to purchase will view the same previous to the sale. Terms of sale—one third of the purchase money to be paid on the day of sale, or the ratification thereof, and the residue to be paid within 12 months thereafter, with interest, to be secured by bond with approved security. On the payment of the purchase money, and ratification of the sale, the subscriber is authorized to execute a deed. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock.

Louis Gassaway, Trustee. Dec. 16. The creditors of Thomas Warfield, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit their claims, with the vouchers thereon, to the Chancery office, within four months from the day of sale.

L. G. Trustee.

Anne Arundel county, to wit:

I hereby certify, that Jeremiah Merrill, of said county, brought before me, (as a stray trespassing on his enclosures) A Red Heifer, about three years old, with a cross on the right ear, and a hole in the left, the end of her tail white. Given under hand of me, one of the justices of the peace in and for said county, this eleventh day of December 1824.

Samuel Brown, Jun. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges and take her away.

Jeremiah Merrill

Taken up Adrift,

Off Sharp's Island, in the Chesapeake Bay, a WATTEAU 18 feet long, 5 feet wide, with a staple in her bow. The owner may have her by proving property and paying charges. She is now in the possession of John Phillips, Annapolis.

Dec. 16. 3w.

Notice is hereby Given.

That the subscriber has obtained from the Court of Anne Arundel county, a power of administration on the personal estate of Risdon Rainer, late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate, are requested to produce them, properly authenticated, and those indebted to make immediate payment.

Abner Linthicum, jr. Adm'r. Dec. 16. 3w.

Chancery Sale.

By virtue of a decree of the Court of Chancery, the subscriber will expose to public sale, at Hunter's Tavern, in the city of Annapolis, on Friday the 7th day of January next, if fair, if not the next fair day thereafter,

Part of a Tract

Or parcel of land called "Chaney's Rest, whereof Zachariah Phelps died seized, containing about 150 acres, and adjoining the lands of Robt. W. Kent, Esq. on the Head of South River.— Terms of Sale.—The purchaser to give bond, with approved security, for payment of the purchase money within 12 months from the day of sale, with interest from the day of sale. On the payment of the purchase money, and ratification of the sale, the subscriber is authorized to execute a deed. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock.

Louis Gassaway, Trustee. Dec. 16. 3w.

PORTRAIT OF GENERAL WINDER

The subscriber has just received an Engraved Portrait of the late GENERAL WINDER, price 1 dollar; also LA FAYETTE BADGES, with an Engraving of La Fayette; and the surrender of Cornwallis, impressed upon White Satin Ribbon—price 18-3-4 cent.

GEORGE SHAW. Dec. 16. 3w.